

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RIO DE 04515 181110Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 DHA-02 OMB-01 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W

----- 026160

R 171800Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4368

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 4515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT BR

SUBJECT : BOMBING OF RIO WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REF: SAO PAULO 2515, BRASILIA 9228

1. SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE (AAB) HAS AGAIN CLAIMED CREDIT FOR BOMBING IN RIO, THIS TIME THE EDITORIAL HEADQUARTERS OF LEFTIST WEEKLY, "OPINIAO". PATTERN ESTABLISHED IN OTHER BOMBING INCIDENTS HERE SINCE INITIAL ONE IN AUGUST WAS FOLLOWED IN THIS CASE. INCIDENT ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 15, TOOK PLACE SHORTLY AFTER SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL (STM) DISMISSED LONG-STANDING LEGAL CASE AGAINST PAPER AND ITS OWNER. AS LEADING LEFT OF CENTER PUBLICATION IN RIO, "OPINIAO" OFFERS ATTRACTIVE TARGET TO RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS AS DOES ITS PUBLISHER, FERNANDO GASPARIAN, WHO DELIVERED DISCOURSE ON STATUS OF BRAZILIAN PRESS FREEDOM AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) CONFERENCE IN US. BOMBING MAY BE RESPONSE FROM RIGHT BOTH TO STM DECISION AND TO GAS-PARIAN'S IAPA SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. IN EARLY MORNING NOVEMBER 15, BOMB EXPLODED AT ENTRANCE OF EDITORIAL OFFICES OF OPPOSITION WEEKLY, "OPINIAO", CAUSING DAMAGE BETWEEN CR\$10-20,000. CHILDREN IN NEARBY HOME WERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RIO DE 04515 181110Z

WOUNDED BY FLYING GLASS BUT NO EMPLOYEES WERE INJURED AND NEXT

EDITION WILL APPEAR ON SCHEDULE CARRYING COVERAGE OF INCIDENT AND MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY.

3. IN PAMPHLETS LEFT AT SCENE, AAB STATED IT COULD NO LONGER REFRAIN FROM REPLYING TO "CRIMINAL ACTIONS OF THIS GROUP OF TRAITORS PAID BY MOSCOW WHO HAVE LONG BEEN WORKING FOR THE COMMUNIZATION OF BRAZIL, THROUGH 'OPINIAO' AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS." PAMPHLETS AND BOMBING WERE DECLARED WARNING PERSONALLY ADDRESSED TO "FERNANDO GASPARIAN AND FOLLOWERS* NEXT TIME BE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR VERY LIVES FOR THE BETRAYAL OF OUR COUNTRY THAT YOU ARE COMMITTING" CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED ABOVE PARALLEL THOSE OF PREVIOUS RIO BOMBING INCIDENTS, I.E., TIMES AT EARLY MORNING HOURS WITH MINIMAL CHANCES OF CAUSING PERSONAL INJURY, SMALL PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND PAMPHLETS ADVERTISING AAB MOTIVATIONS.

4. CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN INCIDENT. "JORNAL DO BRASIL" GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN STORY HEADLINED, "BOMB DESTROYS EDITORIAL OFFICES OF NEWSPAPER 'OPINIAO' AND WOUNDS CHILDREN IN NEXT DOOR BUILDING." "O GLOBO" RAN SHORT STORY HEADLINES, "BOMB IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF 'OPINIAO' DOES LITTLE DAMAGE", AND EDITORIAL WHICH CONDEMNED TERRORIST ACTION AS "PROFOUNDLY DEPLORABLE, THIS ORGANIZED INSANITY, THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF CRIMINAL ATTACKS ON ENTITIES AND PERSONS CONNECTED WITH THE PRESS AND THE LEGAL PROCESS..." EDITORIAL SAW ATTACK AS "POSSIBLY A SORT OF PROVOCATION, BUT FOR WHATEVER MOTIVATION, AN INTOLERABLE DISTURBANCE OF THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CLIMATE, PRECISELY AT THE MOMENT WHEN ECONOMIC VICISSITUDES ARE DEMANDING THE USE OF NATIONAL STRENGTH" AND URGED "THE GREATEST SPEED" IN INVESTIGATIONS BY POLICE AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES. (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT "GLOBO" OWNER MARINHO'S HOME WAS BOMBED IN SEPTEMBER 29 INCIDENT.) "JORNAL DO BRASIL" ALSO PUBLISHED NOTES TO GASPARIAN BY BRAZILIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (ABI), SAO PAULO OPPOSITION WEEKLY "MOVIMENTO", AND PRESS COMMITTEES OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND SENATE AND BRASILIA CLUB OF POLITICAL REPORTERS.

5. ABI NOTE CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT BOMBING OCCURRED ON ELECTION DAY, "AIMED AT THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC OPINION," AND THAT ALTHOUGH "OPINIAO" WAS FIRST NEWSPAPER ACTUALLY BOMBED, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RIO DE 04515 181110Z

NUMEROUS OTHERS HAD RECEIVED THREATS. ABI NOTE CONTINUED THAT "THE IMPUNITY WITH WHICH THE AUTHORS OF THIS ACT EVEN TODAY COMPROMISES THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY, BESIDES STIMULATING AN ESCALATION OF SUCH CRIMES WITH UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES."

6. NOTE FROM MOVIMENTO RHETORICALLY URGED "FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY" AND DENOUNCED "FACIST TERROR" WHICH "THREATENS THOSE ... WHO

FIGHT FOR THE MAJORITY OF BRAZILIANS, WHO WANT LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE." ("MOVIMENTO", ALSO SUBJECT TO PRIOR CENSORSHIP, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY CONTESTING WITH LEGAL SUIT ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY CENSORSHIP WHICH SOMETIMES PREVENTS IT FROM REPRINTING ARTICLES ALREADY RUN BY OTHER NEWSPAPERS. "OPINIAO" RECEIVES SIMILAR TREATMENT. SEE SAO PAULO REFTEL).

7. BOMBING OF "OPINIAO" COMES SHORTLY AFTER TWO EVENTS IN WHICH GASPARIAN TILTED AT BRAZILIAN PRESS STRICTURES WITH WHAT HE PERSONALLY PERCEIVED AS CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. ON NOVEMBER 3 STM DISMISSED SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST GASPARIAN IN SEPTEMBER 1975 BY MILITARY PROSECUTORS ON GROUNDS THAT HE COMMITTED SUBVERSIVE ACTS IN VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW BY REPUBLISHING 1974 SPEECH GIVEN IN US BY DOM HELDER CAMARA. DURING MEETING OF IAPA IN WILLIAMSBURG OCTOBER 13-16, GASPARIAN, WHO IS MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION'S COMMITTEE ON PRESS FREEDOM, WAS ELECTED TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND DISCUSSED THE SITUATION OF THE PRESS IN BRAZIL. IN IAPA'S ASSESSMENT OF PRESS FREEDOM IN AMERICAS, BRAZIL WAS NOT RATED AS HAVING FULL PRESS FREEDOM.

8. COMMENT: "OPINIAO" HAS HAD REPEATED DIFFICULTIES WITH CENSORS WHICH HAVE LEAD TO SUPPRESSION OF TWO EDITIONS SO FAR THIS YEAR. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL OFFICERS NOVEMBER 9, GASPARIAN INDICATED THAT OFFICIAL HARASSMENT WAS CONTINUING. PREVIOUS DAY HE WAS CALLED TO SECURITY POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND QUESTIONED ABOUT POLITICAL LOYALTIES OF PART-TIME STUDENT EMPLOYEES AND, HE ALLEGED, TREATED TO LECTURE BY SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL ON "SOFTNESS" OF GEISEL REGIME TOWARD COMMUNISM. GASPARIAN, WHO HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED SUSPECT BY ELEMENTS IN SECURITY SERVICES, PRESUMABLY HAS NOT ENDEARED HIMSELF TO EXTREME RIGHTISTS BY HIS COMMENTS TO IAPA - FACTUAL THOUGH THEY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN. THESE STATEMENTS TOGETHER WITH STM DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR RIGHTISTS TO STOMACH WITHOUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 RIO DE 04515 181110Z

UNDERTAKING SOME RESPONSE.

9. THIS MESSAGE WAS COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY BRASILIA.
DEXTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RIODE04515
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760430-0695
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761138/aaaabgrh.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SAO PAULO 2515, 76 BRASILIA 9228
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOMBING OF RIO WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PINS, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006